



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA:

TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 27, 1859.

By the arrival of the steamships North America and City of Baltimore, we have late and important intelligence from Europe. The war between the French and English and the Chinese has been recommenced. An explosion has taken place on the Great Eastern—but the damage would soon be repaired, and the ship be ready for sea, in two or three weeks. See the news in another column. Prices of breadstuffs had slightly advanced.

The opening of the Fall Fashions, in the way of bonnets, dresses, &c., in New York, makes, this season, more than the usual "sensational," and long and minute descriptions are given of shapes, ribbons, laces, silks, flounces, &c., &c. There seems to be now, "plenty to wear."

An account is given in the Kansas Express of the terrible suffering of two men, on their way to Pike's Peak, who had subsisted for days on grasshoppers and grains of corn picked up along the road. They were fallen in with by another party of emigrants, and saved.

The grand cricket contest, between the United States, and twenty-two of the English States, to take place in New York, on the 3d of October, and in Philadelphia, on the 10th, promises to be a most interesting affair.

We have received the September number of Blackwood's Magazine, reprinted by Leonard Scott & Co., New York. It contains articles on the new dealing in Syria, Discoveries in Africa, Foreign Affairs—and various other papers of interest. Robert Bell, Agent, King street.

On Thursday evening last, young Brannan, the son of Mr. W. P. Farish's miller, (living at the grist mill near Charlottesville,) was cutting down a tree, which falling, struck another and one of its limbs broke off and falling struck young Mr. Brannan on the head, badly fracturing his skull, from the effects of which he died in a very short time.

W. W. Corcoran, esq., has subscribed \$100 to increase the premium list of the Agricultural Society of Montgomery county, Md., next year, and given \$100 to aid in defraying the expenses of the Society's late exhibition.

Many of the "straight Americans," of New York, are dissatisfied with the "electic" policy pursued by the recent "American" State Convention, and announce their determination to act without reference to its action.

The question of the future annexation of West Florida to Alabama is exciting considerable interest among the citizens of both States. During the approaching election in Florida it will form one of the principal matters of consideration.

Washington College, Virginia, has opened with about ninety students, and it is confidently expected that the number this session will exceed one hundred. The number is larger than has been in attendance for many years.

The Leesburg Washingtonian says: "Capt. H. H. Rhodes, sold on Wednesday last, his residence, near Leesburg, with about 18 acres of land, to Geo. K. Fox, Jr., County Clerk, for \$4,800."

Bears continue to come down from the Mountains to the Valley and counties east of the Blue Ridge, in search of food. A large one was killed recently in the North Garden, Albemarle county.

The splendid auroral display of the night of August 28th, was witnessed throughout Germany, where, also, as well as in other parts of Europe, its peculiar freaks with the electric telegraph were observed.

The Columbia, S. C., Carolinian says: "The numerous friends of the Hon. W. C. Preston will be highly gratified to learn that his health within these few months has been better than for some years."

The amount of specie shipped to Liverpool from New York, on Saturday, is estimated at about two and a half millions of dollars.

The culture of Tobacco in Connecticut, having proved profitable, some of the farmers in Massachusetts are turning their attention to the subject.

Prof. Bledsoe, of the University of Virginia, to whom the Presidency of the Missouri University was recently tendered, has decided to decline the appointment.

A movement is now on foot, by some, in Wardsville and vicinity, in Hardy county, to have themselves attached to the county of Shenandoah.

The total receipts at the National Agricultural Fair, held in Chicago, were \$33,000. The receipts at the National Fair held at Richmond, in October last, were \$7,404.50.

The annual meeting of the American Missionary Association, is appointed to be held at Chicago, Ill., the 18th of October.

The Hon. Jefferson Davis has returned to Washington, much improved in health.

The Conservator, published at Berryville, Clarke County, Va., by H. K. Gregg, in a neat sheet, democratic in politics, but in its well written salutory, declaring that it will not be "partisan in its action," nor ultra in its course. The contents of the Conservator are well selected, and its appearance creditable.

John McAlpine, alias Col. Marmaduke Reeves, of the British army, alias Col. Johnston, of Charleston, S. C., alias Walter Mack, of Cuba, alias Col. Bruce of Cuba, alias Mr. Prince, alias—but we have no more room to spare for his other aliases, was on Friday last placed at the bar of the New York Court of General Sessions, Judge Russell presiding, charged on the first of three indictments, with robbing a young lady, a governess, of a carbuncle ring. McAlpine is an old offender, and has served a term of two years in the State prison.

Professor George Bush died at Rochester last Monday, aged sixty-three years. For many years he has resided in New York city, where he was esteemed not only by those who entertain the belief of Swedenborg, but by the lovers of learning and religion generally. He was a fine scholar, and was deemed a sound expositor of the voluminous doctrines of the seer of Sweden. He edited the New Church Repository for several years, and is well known by several volumes, which he wrote in the course of an industrious life.

At a meeting of the Catholics of Staunton, held at the house of the Rev. Daniel Downey, Sept. 11, 1859, a series of resolutions was passed, expressing the views of the members of the meeting in the correctness of the verdict upon the charge of murder for which Dr. Downey was tried and acquitted, last spring. Amongst the resolutions was one containing a high compliment to the people of Albemarle.

Charles Snyder, esq., a prominent citizen of Cincinnati, was arrested on the 21st instant, on a charge of forgery and perjury. On the following morning he was found dead in bed, having taken a dose of laudanum. Mr. S. was formerly a member of the City Council, and held other responsible offices. His arrest brought upon his family by his indiscreet him to put an end to his life.

The wife of a laborer employed by the Government, complains through the New York Times, that her husband, with but scanty means, is compelled to submit, spring and fall, to a tax for the promotion and maintenance of a party. The Times thinks her appeal to "soften the consciences of those in authority" was very vain, the first necessity of those in authority being to keep in.

A young lady, aged about sixteen, of considerable intelligence and prepossessing appearance, is now residing with the Sheriff of Ottawa county, Ill., preparatory to her removal to the lunatic asylum. She became insane from viewing the aurora borealis a short time ago, which she was induced to believe betokened the approaching end of the world.

The delegation from the Irish Presbyterian Church have been received with great cordiality and respect by their brethren of New York. A pamphlet has recently been published descriptive of the revival in the north of Ireland. It is described as a great movement, operating beneficially upon large masses of the people.

A shocking accident occurred at Sharp's Rifle Factory on Thursday afternoon, when, by the premature discharge of a dozen rifles, Warren W. Shepard, an honest and faithful lad, sixteen years of age, was instantly killed, his head being literally blown to pieces.

The San Juan Difficulty.—Colonel Rankin, Register of the Land Office at Olympia, in Washington Territory, has arrived here from the Island of San Juan. He reports that if the intentions of Governor Douglas have been carried out, there would have been a collision between the British and American forces, as the vessels Satellite and Plumper had orders from him to fire, but Admiral Bayne opportunely arrived and superseded him in command of the English ship of war, five in number.

The original misunderstanding was with the Hudson Bay Company, the interests of which were represented by Governor Douglas. The Island of San Juan had been in the occupancy of the Americans at least eighteen months, nobody seeming to question their rights, and for a longer period was considered and treated in all respects as belonging to Washington Territory. It was not until Gen. Harney applied to and was informed by Boundary Commissioner Campbell, that our troops were despatched thither at all, that the request of the residents, who claimed protection from British aggression, and especially from the predatory incursions of Northern Indians who had even taken and held possession of a light house for three days, and against whom private expeditions had repeatedly been sent to chastise them.—Col. Rankin says the people of Washington Territory and of the Pacific States are unanimous for the retention of the Island of San Juan. And such is their enthusiasm that if the United States troops should be directed to vacate it, private parties in formidable numbers would immediately occupy that important position, and not surrender without a severe struggle. But it is not supposed in this city that our troops will be withdrawn, as this would be considered as an admission that our title is clearly disputable.

It may not be generally known that this Government has recently confirmed a bluff of land, containing three thousand acres, for a military reservation, if anything, further north than San Juan.

Lamentable Occurrence.—A wealthy and highly respectable farmer, named George Smith, a resident of the county of Kent (Canada), was killed on Monday last, at his residence, in a very distressing manner. He had a fine farm on which was an abundance of fruit and grapes, which had been a source of considerable trouble to him on account of the depredations of thieves. In order to put a stop to this he determined upon forcible measures, and accordingly loaded a gun and kept it in readiness for the return of the thieves. On the afternoon in question, as he arose from the supper table to go in search of his cows, he addressed his servant girl Julia, and directed her to take the gun and shoot the first person who approached the grapes. On the premises at his residence, he entered the premises by the back way, and went directly to the grape vines, entirely forgetting the directions so recently given to the girl, who, as seemed from the result, was prepared to obey them to the letter. She was watching with the gun in hand, and, being entirely unable to recognize him in the dusk of evening, drew up and fired, the charge of shot taking effect in the thigh, and terminating his life in a few minutes.—Detroit Free Press.

The Responsibility.—In his August speech, in speaking of the Post Office Appropriation bill, Senator Toombs, of Georgia, said—"I stood with its fate in my hand, and I stamped it under my feet."

And yet the Democracy have tried to put the crushed bill under the heels of the Opposition, and endeavored to throw the whole responsibility upon them. We hope they now see where the responsibility properly belongs.—Rich. Whig.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE NORTH AMERICAN.

Important From China.

FARTHER POINT, Sept. 25.—The steamer North American from Liverpool, with dates to the 16th, passed here to-day, going to Quebec, and the following summary of her arrivals has been received.

The steamer Asia arrived out on the 11th inst., and the steamer Huiang on the 13th, and Vanderbilt on the 14th.

An explosion occurred on board the steamer Great Eastern on the 9th inst. at Hastings. The funnel was blown into the air, tearing in pieces the grand saloon and doing great damage to the internal fittings. The guests had just quitted the saloon and escaped injury. The force of the shock, her frame sustaining no injury. The accident made no little difference in the movements of the ship that the engines never stopped till she reached Portland, where an inquiry was held as to the cause of the explosion. The boiler through the water jacket was stopped because of the failure of an auxiliary pumping power. Secondly, a tap in a stand pipe, which acts as a safety valve, was turned, apparently intentionally, so that the pipe was useless. The ship was almost without motion during the trip, when large ships were tossing in the stormy sea. The injury would be repaired in five days.

ENGLAND.—A new reform movement under the auspices of Mr. Cobden and others was in progress.

Some of the builders of London had yielded to the demands of their workmen.

FRANCE.—The King of Belgium has gone to see Napoleon, as is supposed, in reference to the difficulties between France and Austria.

The late article in the Monitor, it is stated, came direct from the Emperor.

It was rumored that France and England had agreed that a European Congress on the Italian question was necessary.

The Plenipotentiaries at Zurich were having occasional meetings.

CHINA.—Admiral Hope arrived off the Peiho river on the 17th of June, but found the entrance barred. An attempt was made on the 25th to force a passage, when suddenly batteries supported by a force of twenty thousand men were unmasked and opened a destructive fire.

After a severe action the squadron was compelled to withdraw with the loss of gun boats, Commodore, Lee, Plover, and four hundred and sixty-four men killed and wounded. The French had fourteen men killed out of sixty.

Seven British officers were killed, and seventeen wounded, the latter including the Admiral.

The Plenipotentiaries had returned to Shanghai.

The details say the mouth of the river was raked by the fire of newly constructed forts mounting nine hundred guns.

At 1.30 P. M. the signal for action was run up. The gunboats Opussum and Plover pushed in close to the first barrier, when the guns of the forts opened fire, and the action became general. The fire of the Chinese, in weight and precision, was such as never before experienced. Every shot told, while those of the British did comparatively little damage. The troops were ordered to land, but as the first boat touched the shore, the forts poured a perfect hurricane of shells, balls and rockets, which mowed down the men as they landed. The ship supported them as well as possible.

The mud on the shore was deep, and the thousand landing barely one hundred reached the first wide ditches, five hundred yards from the river. Only fifty reached the third ditch, and these would have made an attempt to scale the walls but the ladders were broken by the shot or stuck fast in the mud. With the one remaining, ten men sprang forward, three of whom were killed, and five severely injured. Orders were at last given to retire and to the retreat the men were shot down like birds. Many boats were swamped by the balls and there was not enough to take off the survivors. Several boats full of wounded were struck and swamped.

Russian features were distinctly visible at the batteries.

The Americans towed up several boats to the scene of action and afterwards took a number of men to their respective ships.

ITALY.—The National Assembly of Parma had voted for the expulsion of the House of Bourbon and the annexation of that State to Sardinia.

Sardinia said that King Victor Emmanuel was disbanding his army; but the men were furnished with passports to Tuscany and Modena where they will swell the army in Central Italy.

ASTA.—Schmyl is said to have been made prisoner by the Russians, and sent to St. Petersburg.

AUSTRIA.—The Government of Austria is making great concessions to Protestants.

INDIA.—There were signs of dissatisfaction in the Madras cavalry at Hyderabad.

The Australian mail to the middle of July had arrived. The supply of gold was increasing.

The Liverpool Cotton Market for the three days closed dull, with sales of 18,000 bales, including 1,000 to speculators with 2,500 to exporters.

Prices were easier, and some authorities say a decline of 1.16th had taken place. At Manchester the market opened quiet but closed firm.

Breadstuffs generally had an advancing tendency, and all kinds were slightly higher. Flour closed firm at an advance of 6d. per sack. Wheat closed with an advancing tendency at 24 advance, and a better demand. Corn closed steady, but quiet. Provisions steady; best beef; pork firm; bacon firm; quiet; hard beef; rice; firm; corn firm at 4s; spirits turpentine firm at 35s. 6d.

A REVIVAL OF RELIGION, unprecedented in all our annals in this village, extending through both the churches; pervading an entire community; without distinction of age, sex, condition or color; is now in progress in our midst. A whole people finding their way to the places of worship where services are held daily and nightly; the deepest solemnity displayed by them in and out of those places of public worship—when and where has the like been seen? Yet no extraordinary excitement attends, this remarkable work of God—it is but the clear and present manifestation of his Spirit moving in all among these people who have souls to save or hearts to be comforted. About seventy-five persons are numbered among the professed converts—how many more serious—when all seem so—there is no estimating.—Romney, Va., Int.

BEARS.—We learn that numbers of these animals have made their appearance in parts of this country. In Bean Settlement they have been destroying the Corn. One or two have been killed. We were informed a few days since that three had been seen together in that section of the county. We were informed also, that a large number had been seen on the mountain near Wardsville, in this county.—Hardy County Whig.

BATS.—On Tuesday afternoon, the whole county, as far as we have heard, seemed to swarm with the bat. For the suddenness of their appearance in such remarkable numbers, it is difficult to account. Some conjecture that it is ominous of cold weather, and that they were seeking a more southern latitude. Sportsmen enjoyed fine sport in this vicinity, and large numbers were killed.—Kent (Md.) News.

HOON, Sherrard Clemens, of Virginia, may probably yet find from the effects of his duel. The Rappahannock Southern reports him as in a very critical condition.

LOUIS, Sept. 24.

The Arizona correspondent of the Republican says a duel between Judge Watts and Mr. Otero, who had taken place near Mesilla. Three shots with Colt's navy revolvers, at fifteen paces, were exchanged, without effect, when the parties were withdrawn by their seconds.

It was reported that Mr. Otero had been re-elected to Congress by 1,400 majority.—Lieut. McLeary has also been returned to Congress, a delegate from Arizona.

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 24.—A special dispatch to the Republican says: A Salt Lake mail of the 24th inst., arrived at Atchison yesterday. Col. Landers division of the South Pacific and Wagon Road has been completed. The new road is shorter and better than the old route.

The Indians about the northern route of the Territory are reported as being bold and troublesome. They had arrayed themselves against a small party of Col. Wallen's Wagon Road expedition, but with no serious result. The report of the massacre of Wallen's command, received via California, probably grew out of this demonstration.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—Our government having sent a Minister of a full grade to Vienna, that of Austria, Mr. Hulsman, has been raised to the rank of Minister. The latter will return to Washington.

The whole amount of the public land surveys as returned to the General Land Office during the year ending with the present month, is nearly 55,000 acres, or about 15,000,000 acres.

MONTEAL, Sept. 24.—The Canadian Cricket players first "innings" were 85.—The All-England players have commenced. The play will be resumed on Monday and finished on Tuesday. The English players are sanguine of success.

NEW YORK, Sept. 25.—The United States sloop-of-war Brooklyn, arrived here to-day.

Brownlow's Adventures.

The Rev. Mr. Brownlow, of Knoxville, Tenn., who had perhaps rather been known as "that same old coon," than as a minister of the gospel, has been in society at one of the Virginia springs, from which he corresponds with his paper. He describes some of his proceedings.—Whether in the hotel, around the Mineral Fountain, or in the coach, some one salutes me by name, and then the rest commence looking me out of countenance. I feel tempted to enquire of such, as John Randolph did of a gang of boys, who, attracted by his long queue, slims, slinks, and knee-buckles, on Market street, in Baltimore, were pursuing him in gangs, continually increasing in numbers. He turned upon them, and snapping at them, said, "get out! you must think I am a d—d wolf!" To avoid this state of things last night, I left the crowd in the sitting room, and entered the ball room, where I found music and dancing, on a magnificent scale. I supposed no one would recognize me, but lo and behold! the two Episcopal Ministers and their families, travelling in the same coach with me, were charmed by the same music, and were looking on with apparent delight! We were all old men, long having been engaged in life's battles, and we thought it proper to retire to the midst of the dance, gaze upon beauty in silks and expanded crinolines, and thus make life a pleasure as it should be, and not a burden."

The Paris correspondent of the Boston Advertiser says, "Paris is being torn down and rebuilt with an activity that borders upon the marvellous. Narrow streets, old houses, steep, damp, dark and unhealthy, have disappeared as if by enchantment, and long rows of white palaces replace the old tumble-down, jumbled-up dwellings that have been demolished. Light and air have thus gained access to portions of the city that knew them not, and great is the consequent reduction in the bills of mortality. The stone used for building in Paris is one peculiarly adapted to the purpose.—Of a rich cream color, it presents a beautiful appearance and possesses a singular property. It is, when first quarried, easily broken into life or chips, and the beautiful sculptures that may be seen on the facades of all the new houses in Paris are chiselled without difficulty. But exposure to the air renders this soft and easily worked stone as hard as granite, so that being accommodated soft at first it becomes duly hard in course of time, rendering the beautiful ornaments enduring.

MYSTERIES OF THE BANK PARKERS.—The New York Tribune says, the Boston clerk of one of the city banks recently resigned his situation. His resignation was accepted, his accounts investigated and pronounced all right, and a complimentary vote passed by the Board for his attention to his duties, &c. He then stated to the Board that he had a communication to make, as a caution to induce them to watch his successor. He stated that notwithstanding his accounts were all correct at the time of resignation, he had, in fact been using the Bills Receivable of the Bank for funds as collateral for loans, and employing the funds in the purchase of paper at usurious rates. By this course he had accumulated sufficient property to purchase a house, and having no further use for the facilities he had enjoyed, he had resigned.

The recent military spectacle brought to Paris all the most accomplished pickpockets of Europe, and the very one has some story to tell of the marvellous tricks of cleverness that have been displayed. Amongst others is the substitution of a pair of ordinary spectacles for gold ones that adorned the nose of one of the most wealthy of the bankers, who did not become acquainted with the robbery until the change that had occurred within his family was remarked on his return home.

An illustrious foreign duke, who has long resided there and astonished the admiring world with his diamond waistcoat buttons, is said to have been shorn of some of his jewels; and several ladies were divested of their shawls immediately after the shower of rain under pretext of clearing away some of the watery element that had been imbued.

GRAND LODGE OF THE I. O. O. F.—This body which is composed of delegates from the various States and Territories of our Union, including a portion of the British Provinces, and which was convened on last Monday, closed its deliberations this afternoon, at three o'clock, passing a resolution that the next session will meet in Nashville, Tennessee, on the 3d of September, 1860. The main portion of the day has been spent in considering and acting upon the various reports presented for their final adjustment. The session throughout has been marked with the utmost harmony and brotherly love, and all leave Baltimore highly gratified with the hospitality which has been extended to them by the citizens.—Baltimore Patriot.

ORDER FOR PIANO FORTES.—The largest order for piano fortes ever given in the United States, and probably in the world, has just been received by Messrs. Allen W. Ladd & Co., of Boston, numbering one hundred and fifty-seven instruments, including ten grand, forty-two upright, and thirty-five small pianos, which are all destined for the Southern States. The purchaser, Alanson Reed, esq., is one of the oldest and most respectable dealers, having been among the first in the introduction of piano fortes into the Western States, nearly twenty years ago. He is fitting up the most elegant and spacious warehouse in the country, being located in St. Louis, with a branch house in Nashville, Tenn.—Boston Post.

The Equinoctial Storm in Albemarle.

Piedmont Virginia suffered more by the storm of last week than any other part of our State; and we doubt not, Albemarle has been damaged in a larger degree than any county in the Piedmont country. We think we fall short of the actual figure when we estimate the loss sustained by our county at \$100,000.

It commenced raining on Thursday night of last week, continuing to fall throughout Friday, and during the whole of Friday night the rain came down in torrents, accompanied by a perfect gale from the North West.

At an early hour of Saturday morning the Rappahannock was out of its banks, and by 12 o'clock it had risen to a height of ten inches above the highest water marks of the famous freshets of 1852 and 1826. The tobacco crop of Albemarle, one of the largest and most promising we have ever raised, was generally located upon our river flats or upon the creeks. The consequence has been a great destruction everywhere of this valuable staple. Where the water did but little damage, the violent winds carried their devastations. To give some idea of the loss sustained by our river planters, we have heard it estimated by reliable men that from the mills to Shadwell the damages are not under \$12,000. Dr. T. J. Cooke's loss is estimated at \$2,500; Major Dabney's at \$2,500; Dr. W. G. Carr's at \$2,500 or \$3,000; Mr. E. J. Timberlake's at \$500; Mr. Maccon's at \$500, and Dr. Minor is a heavy loser, but to what extent we are not accurately informed. On Moore's Creek, Mr. A. Rives's tobacco suffered very much, and Mr. W. P. Farish lost his mill dam and a very large proportion of his tobacco—his loss probably reaches \$24,000. At Mr. Farish's Blair Farm estate, near Greenwood, his loss is about \$2,000. Mr. John Mosby and Mr. Wayland, in the same neighborhood, lost each a new tobacco house.

Two spans of the bridge at Rio were carried off. Both of Mr. N. Burnley's mill dams and his saw mill were destroyed. Mr. William Garth's mill dam, so rumor says, was broken. Mr. John Cochran's mill dam near town was swept away. The last named dam has successfully withstood every freshet for the last forty-five years. It was swept away in 1844; and was so strongly rebuilt that no fears were entertained that it would ever yield to high water.

From other parts of the county we have received no particulars concerning the damage. On the Central Railroad there were two or three culverts so much impaired as to detain the trains six or seven hours.

The rain of Tuesday night last again broke the culvert at Keswick, and the trains had to change passengers and baggage, unable to cross the culvert. The Western train was detained yesterday several hours, owing to further damage to the road.

The greatest damage of last week's storm seems to have been suffered by the counties lying at the foot of the Blue Ridge, and extending from Lynchburg to Alexandria.

In the Valley there was less rain and less wind, and though the storm had prevailed to the same extent with us, still they had not so much property injured.—Charlottesville Advertiser of Saturday.

A Sister's Letter to a Highwayman.

A notorious highwayman was shot near Auburn, California, a few weeks ago. On his person was found the following letter from his sister:

SWEET HOME, March 14, 1850.

MY DEAR BROTHER: I read scarcely believe, or rather rather, that I am again indulging in the privilege of addressing you, with the hope of being heard or understood.

And tremblingly I ask that you, my much beloved brother, the guide of my infant joys, the long lost friend of my childhood, will allow a renewed correspondence to open between you and your good old home. Oh! how our hearts have ached for a word from your own pen. Years have passed away since your last letter reached us—years that now seem to be lifetimes. I have prayed to the Father that He would restore you to the path of rectitude; but if He has not already, you say, "Alas! He will never save me!" But I say, "He will, if you will, O brother!"

Will you read these words? God sees your heart while we see but the outward. He knows if there is a secret wish there, it is to be a better man. If there be but the lust, the lust of resolution, He knows; hear Him say, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all things shall be added thereto." Jesus will raise your head, and make you a new man. Go to Him, oh, my brother!

Will you not write a few words to your own home? It may, indeed, be a bitter task; but may it prove to be a blessing! Do try to overcome every obstacle. Look back, deep into your heart, and see if there is not a wish to remember your sister, your own affectionate and anxious sister.

P. S.—Please write, dear brother, and I will tell you so many things that I will interest you.

TO RICHARD A. BARTER.

AMERICAN WATCHES.—Our readers will recollect that not long ago we published an elaborate article on the American Watch Company's Factory, at Waltham, Massachusetts, and predicted for its products a large and enduring success. This result has been accomplished beyond the most extravagant hopes of its managers, and their watches are now the trusted companions of thousands of that best class of the community with whom time is emphatically money. They have proved to be, what we then insisted they couldn't help being—the most uniformly reliable and substantial watches in the world, and we are informed that even the prejudices of foreign watch repairers, working in this country, are gradually giving way to the preference argument furnished by the steady and accurate performances of these time-keepers. In many instances, to our certain knowledge, their accuracy is, and has been almost unparalleled, rivaling that of the best Marine Chronometers, and in all cases so exact as to accomplish all the practical purposes of a pocket time-piece. More than 17,000 persons in the United States are now wearing American watches, and the Company have not heard more than a half dozen complaints from all that number, and those arising from some accidental derangement or misusage of the works.—New York Spirit of the Times.

READY MADE GRAVES.—A committee of the Council of Clarksville, Tenn., instructing the new Sexton in the duties of his office, informed him that it would be his province to have the graves prepared in the City Cemetery. He took them at their word and went to work, and before the misunderstanding was discovered had a wholesale lot on hand. In relation to which the Clarksville Jeffersonian says:

"As the quantity of graves will be more than sufficient for our population for some time to come, persons at a distance intending to die before the next rain, can be accommodated with graves at cost."

NEGRO SLAVERY IN ILLINOIS.—The negro race is regarded with neither admiration nor esteem in Illinois, as well as various other of the free States, and the fugitive may vainly look for aid, comfort and sympathy within their borders. A runaway would have as little chance to escape in harboring in Illinois as in any of the Southern States, and a free negro who locates in that State does so in peril of being consigned to slavery. Nor are these stringent statutes a dead letter but active law in the commonwealth.

The Trial Trip of the Great Eastern.

Throughout the whole course down the river, the paddles had never been moved at a greater speed than from 4 to 6 revolutions per minute, and the screw from 12 to 18. In fact, neither engine was moved till it became actually necessary to assist the tugs. Yesterday, however, when the valuable little aids, which had realized their value of the Mouse and the Lion, and freed the Great Eastern from all her river toils, were cast adrift at Chapman's Head, more speed was put upon the vessel, and in ten minutes she set at the fastest velocity about comparison in the world. It has already been stated that the proper screwing trim of the Great Eastern is a little over four feet down in the stern. Instead of this she is at present six inches down by the head, while her whole draught of water is two feet to allow the proper immersion of her paddle floats, and no less than four feet of her screw blades are out of water.

Any one of all acquainted with steamships will see that an attempt at the real speed under such circumstances, was out of the question. Yet even in this trim, enough was done to show the marvellous power which this vessel will possess when fully ready for sea work.

It is interesting to observe that it took 25 pounds of steam, the paddles giving 14 revolutions and the screw 53. To-day the pressure of steam was under 17 pounds, the paddles never actually reached nine revolutions, and the screw only 27. Yet even when not employing two-thirds of her power, and in the worst trim, against a strong tide, she ran from the Lower Hope point to the Nore light ship, a distance of 15 statute miles in two minutes under the load. Calculating from this data, it will be found that working her ordinary sea-going power will give her, even in her present trim, an average of 18 to 19 miles an hour.

During the time the vessel was going at this speed of 12 knots or fifteen miles, the engines worked with an ease that, when their size and power are considered, was perfectly astounding. There was scarcely any vibration on the vessel, and, as far as could be gathered from outward objects, one might much easier have imagined one's self writing in a Parisian saloon than in the state cabin of the Great Eastern lying down to the Nore. One thing connected with the vessel is as remarkable as her other characteristics.—Even when going 13 knots an hour there was an utter absence of "swell" in her wake—less, as far as could be judged from the deck, than is made by the ordinary steamers, and not one-half as much as was thrown up by our own tugs.—London Times.

Barbarism in the Marquesas Islands.

Captain Brown, of the Morning Star, furnishes to the Honolulu Advertiser some information as to the murderous doings of the natives in the islands of the Marquesas group. He says:

"We anchored on the 4th of June, and found the people of Fatuhiva, as usual, at war, that is, butchering each other. I think the natives of this island are the worst in the group. They are great warriors when they can find their victims asleep. About the